

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 17. (canceled).

18. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus capable of communication with apparatuses connected thereto for information processing, comprising:

a USB device controller connectable with a USB host apparatus, which always assumes a host role, for controlling communication between the connected USB host apparatus and ~~said the~~ information processing apparatus;

a USB host controller connectable with a USB device apparatus, which is different from the USB host apparatus, for controlling communication between the connected USB device apparatus and ~~said the~~ information processing apparatus;

a connection unit having a plurality of connectors, wherein each connector is for the USB host apparatus and the USB device apparatus;

a controller connected with each of a plurality of apparatuses through said USB device controller or said USB host controller; and

a switching unit for switching a connection between each of the connectors and one of said USB device controller and said USB host controller,

wherein said switching unit determines the type of the apparatus connected to the connector for each connector, and

if it is determined that the apparatus connected to that connector is the USB device apparatus, connects the USB device apparatus with ~~the~~said USB host controller so that the information processing apparatus can communicate with the USB device apparatus through the USB host controller. and[[,]]

if it is determined that the apparatus connected to that connector is the USB host apparatus, connects the USB host apparatus with ~~the~~said USB device controller so that the information processing apparatus can communicate with the USB host apparatus through the USB device controller.

19. (previously presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 18,

wherein said connectors are AB type connectors in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein if a B type connector is connected with said connection unit, said switching unit determines that the apparatus connected to that connector is the USB host apparatus.

20. (previously presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 18,

wherein said connectors are AB type connectors in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein if an A type connector is connected with said connection unit, said switching unit determines that the apparatus connected to that connector is the USB device apparatus.

21. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising:

a use status determination unit for determining a use status of said USB device controller and said USB host controller; and

a warning unit for giving a warning to an operator of said information processing apparatus,

if said use status determination unit determines that said USB device controller or said USB host controller is in use, and

~~the said~~ controller, which is selected from said USB device controller and USB host controller in correspondence with the type of the connected apparatus determined by said switching unit and is connected with the connected apparatus, is in use,

wherein said switching unit does not select said USB device controller and USB host controller in use as said USB device controller and USB host controller connected with the connected apparatus.

22. (previously presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein if said use status determination unit determines that said USB device controller and USB host controller that were previously in use have come to

be not in use, said switching unit selects said USB device controller and USB host controller that have been in use as said USB device controller and USB host controller connected with the connected apparatus.

23. (currently amended): A control method for an information processing apparatus capable of communication with apparatuses connected thereto for information processing, wherein the information processing apparatus comprises

a USB device controller connectable with a USB host apparatus, which always assumes a host role, for controlling communication between the connected USB host apparatus and the information processing apparatus,

a USB host controller connectable with a USB device apparatus, which is different from the USB host apparatus, for controlling communication between the connected USB device apparatus and the information processing apparatus,

a connection unit having a plurality of connectors, wherein each connector is for connecting the USB host apparatus and the USB device apparatus, and

a controller connected with each of a plurality of apparatuses through the USB device controller or the USB host controller, said method comprising:

a switching step for switching a connection between each of the connectors and one of the USB device controller and the USB host controller, for determining the type of the apparatus connected to the connector for each connector, and

if it is determined that the apparatus connected to that connector is the USB device apparatus, for connecting the USB device apparatus with the USB host

controller so that the information processing apparatus can communicate with the USB device apparatus through the USB host controller, and[[,]]

if it is determined that the apparatus connected to that connector is the USB host apparatus, for connecting the USB host apparatus with the USB device controller so that the information processing apparatus can communicate with the USB host apparatus through the USB device controller;

a device control step for controlling, by means of the USB device controller, communication between the USB host apparatus and the information processing apparatus; and

a host control step for controlling, by means of the USB host controller, communication between the USB device apparatus and the information processing apparatus.

24. (previously presented): The control method according to claim 23, wherein the connectors are AB type connectors in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein, if a B type connector is connected with the connection unit, it is determined in said switching step that the apparatus connected to that connector is the USB host apparatus.

25. (previously presented): The control method according to claim 23, wherein the connectors are AB type connectors in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein, if an A type connector is connected with the connection unit, it is determined in said switching step that the apparatus connected to that connector is the USB device apparatus.

26. (previously presented): The control method according to claim 23, further comprising:

an execution status determination step for determining an execution status of said device control step and said host control step; and

a warning step for giving a warning to an operator of the information processing apparatus, if it is determined in said execution status determination step that said device control step or said host control step is in execution, and the controller, which is selected in said switching step in correspondence with the type of the connected apparatus determined in said switching step and controls communication between the connected apparatus and the information processing apparatus, is such a controller that corresponds to the control step in execution, wherein, in said switching step, the controller corresponding to said control step that is in execution is not selected as the controller for controlling communication between the connected apparatus and the information processing apparatus.

27. (previously presented): The control method according to claim 26, wherein, if it is determined in said use status determination step that said control step in execution is no longer in execution, the USB device controller or the USB host controller, respectively, corresponding to said control step that has been in execution is selected in

said switching step as the controller for controlling communication between the external apparatus and the information processing apparatus.

28. (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium storing, in executable form, a control program for information processing apparatus for executing by means of a computer the control method according to claim 23.